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THE CHINA PRESS, FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1937.

Bert Hall Loses Suit For \$40,000

Captain Winston B. ("Bert") Hall, flying soldier of fortune who is well known in Shanghai, has lost his latest battle, word received yesterday from Los Angeles, California, revealed.

Bert Hall's most recent campaign was a legal one: a suit against the Douglas Aircraft Company to recover \$40,000 allegedly due him as commission on the sale of \$440,000 worth of Douglas planes to the Chinese Government. A verdict against the adventurer-aviator was handed down in Los Angeles on April 12 by Superior Judge M. W. ...

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THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1937

MR. BERT HALL IS SENTENCED

**2½ Years for Swindling Army
Officials in China**

Los Angeles, Mar. 15.
Mr. Donald W. Douglas, President of Douglas Aircraft Co., answering the action brought by W.B. "Bert" Hall for \$50,000 in commissions on the sale of twenty aeroplanes to the Chinese Government in 1931, today told the court that Hall had never been connected with the Douglas Company. He said he understood Hall had been associated with Mr. F. N. Shoemaker, who was a free agent for the sale of aeronautical equipment at Shanghai. He added Mr. Shoemaker was in dis-favour at present.

Hall was sentenced to 2½ years imprisonment for allegedly swindling Chinese military officials in an armaments deal.—United Press.

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Bert Hall Turning To Adventure In Europe

Famed Soldier Of Fortune, Writing For Film
In Los Angeles, Hints Darkly Of Strife
He Seeks; Reminisces On China Days

BERT Hall, who last made a public appearance in Shanghai before the U. S. Court for an arms deal in Tientsin, and who has recently been released from McNeill's Island for that deal, is again making the homeside headlines. A few weeks ago it was reported in this paper that Hall was doing a personal appearance turn in West Coast vaudeville on the strength of his reputation as a swashbuckling soldier of fortune. Now he's at it again.

In Los Angeles, Hall told reporters that he has found his next war, one for which he has waited since China's last revolution. Visiting that California city to see some air races, he said he was soon departing for an unannounced destination where "big things are about ready to bust loose." Just where his war is to occur Hall was not at liberty to reveal. It will be, however, in southern Europe, he hinted.

Writes For Films

He was reported in L.A. to have returned "from a flying visit to his old stamping ground in Central China," though if he did, he managed to slip through the newspaper barrier here in Shanghai without any publicity. Allegedly the "last living member of the original Lafayette Escadrille," he settled in Hollywood and the peripatetic musketeer-aviator has been grinding out stories for the films.

His last novel, he admitted, was sought after by one producer who said he would be happy to start filming the script early next year.

Might Be Dead

"By that time," snorted Hall, "I might be dead."

He will pass up the motion-picture opportunity in favor of the European war, he said. Besides the film colony, he will leave behind his wife and his three sons whose ages range from 10 to 16 years. That doesn't worry them they observed philosophically.

Prison Terms

"Dad's always dashing off to the wars," said 14-year-old Donald, now a cadet at a Southland military academy.

Hall's viewpoint on soldiering hasn't been altered by his stay in the Federal penitentiary on McNeill's Island for the illegal arms deal. It is still "bad business," the knight-errant said. But it is still a highly lucrative one, provided you find a country with lots of money and very little military experience, he thinks.

Hall said he trains green troops.

War-Lord Buddy

Here in China, he recalled, his especial "buddy" among the war-lords was "the ruler of Shantung Province." As "Gen. Chan" Hall was his right-hand man and aviator adviser, he declared. And as a member of the staff, Hall observed what may be the world's

most successful example of currency inflation.

It's another of those "China Yarns" that they feed homeside folk.

"We were getting pretty hard up," the soldier recounted. "Something had to be done. What actually happened was by no means my idea. It was the war-lord's."

Printed His Money

"Setting out on his annual inspection tour of his armies, he loaded a complete printing outfit on a motor and hitched it to his private train. At each city we touched, he'd ask his local representative how much money was needed to carry on military operations."

"That amount was promptly run off the presses."

"If anybody didn't accept the 'money' at its face value, the chief would calmly execute 'em. He said he had every right to do this. It was not only treason—but it was flagrant treason. For didn't he plaster the city with placards announcing that the new Shantung currency would replace these no-good American dollars?"

Eyes On France

Hall sniffed contemptuously as he thought of his former schoolmates who are now substantial Los Angeles businessmen.

"Look at 'em," he exclaimed. "All shot to pieces. It's this fast American life that gets them. Me—I'm getting out of here!"

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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
C. & S. B. REGISTRY
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Date 5.1.4.32

THE SHANGHAI TIMES, SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1932

CAPT. BERT HALL ARRIVES HERE

**Returned At Request Of
Chinese Government,
It Is Said**

Captain Bert Hall, American aviator, arrived in Shanghai yesterday on the Dollar liner, President Hoover. Capt Hall who was a member of the famous Lafayette Escadrille flying corps during the World War, has been to China before, and at one period was actively connected with the Chinese flying corps.

It is said that Capt. Hall has come to Shanghai at the request of the Chinese Government. The captain once held the rank and name of General Chang, in the Chinese army. He was commander in chief of the Chinese Flying Corps.

O/S.B. Information.

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SHANGHAI NEWS PAPER
C.I.D. FILE
No. 1. 9028.
Date. June 6. 29.

June 18 6 29

Hero Of Great War Here To Establish Plant For Manufacture Of Planes

Lieutenant Bert Hall, Flying Ace And Friend Of
Famous Aviators, Will Head Independent
Company With Head Office Here

Lieutenant Bert Hall, Great War flying hero, and a recognized authority on aeronautics, is laying plans for the establishment here of a modern plant for the manufacturing of aeroplanes. Lieut. Hall will shortly confer with high National Government officials and it is expected that the output of the proposed factory will chiefly be sold to the Chinese Government.

The factory will turn out planes under the direction of a number of French engineers, who will be brought here from Paris by Lieut. Hall. A considerable number of Chinese will also be employed and it is possible that in addition to the factory a school for the training of aviators will be established. Lieut. Hall, who was an "ace" of the famous Lafayette Escadrille

during the Great War, was interviewed yesterday, at the Raffles Hotel by a representative of the THE SHANGHAI TIMES. Born in America but with many years residence in France, Lieut. Hall speaks both the English and French languages fluently. He is now a citizen of France, the country for whom he fought four years, in the trenches and in the air.

Won Many Medals

This daring flyer has military medals of many countries, including France, Great Britain and Russia. He very modestly declined to discuss the circumstances under which any of the 12 medals he possesses were awarded to him.

"Just a bit of luck," he asserted in a tone, which implied that almost anyone could have won such medals by the turn of a card or the spin of an ivory roulette ball.

Here Three Weeks

Lieut. Hall arrived in China three weeks ago. At about the same time his new book "One Man's War," appeared in America. It is a thrilling story of the Lafayette Escadrille, that intrepid band of daring young men who overed themselves with glory in their battles in the air for the Allies. Only two of the original seven are alive to-day. Lieut. Hall is one of them.

It will be recalled that war was declared on August 5, 1914. On the following day Lieut. Hall joined the famous Foreign Legion of France. Prior to this he flew planes for the Turks in the Balkan wars. The Turks refused to pay the aviator. Lieut. Hall leaped in his plane, flew over to the other side and joined the English against the Turks. Later, when he attempted to go back to the Turkish side, he was captured by the English and was held in a prison camp and was later released.

Bois

Escaped Execution

His story, "One Man's War" tells of his thrilling escape from execution. During those historic days of the German drive for Paris, Lieut. Hall was a soldier in the trenches. He obtained a transfer to the French Air Service where he soon won recognition by his fearlessness and ability. He was respected and feared by enemy flyers.

During his long service in the air service Lieut. Hall knew intimately the great British ace, Colonel Bishop. He also knew Norman Prince, William Thaw, Charles Nungesser, Rene Fonck,

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2.)

Continued from Page 1, Col. 4.) Guynemer and the heroic Raoul Lufberry, idol of America.

At one time during the war Lieut. Hall was sent to Russia on an espionage mission and arrived in time to see the dramatic breakup of the Czar's armies before Bolshevism. But before the smash he did some spectacular flying on the Russian and Roumanian fronts, winning decorations from King Ferdinand and the Grand Duke Nicholas.

He managed to escape from the Bolsheviks by crossing Siberia on a train loaded with terror-stricken refugees. The horror of this journey on the Trans-Siberian Railway to Vladivostok is one of the highlights of his amazing narrative. He then took a boat across the Pacific to America and thence back to France to fight again.

Born in Kentucky and a Lieut. Hall was born in the state of Kentucky but was taken while young to Missouri, living for a number of years near Kansas City. He went to France before the war and became interested in flying. During the war he was wounded several times but never actually shot down. He is officially credited with shooting down enemy planes. Once he flew back to his field in a Nieuport that collapsed in landing. It had been shot to pieces.

This aviator has lived in Japan, China, Russia and India since the war. He visited in Shanghai last winter at the same time his friend Mr. Eugene O'Neill was here.

Paris is Lieut. Hall's home now. He has not been in America for more than a year, the last time he was there he made three motion pictures in Hollywood. Lieut. Hall is married but his wife is not with him, she being ill in London. His wife is the daughter of Admiral Paget of Great War fame.

Will Fly to Europe
At present Lieut. Hall has a Bernard aeroplane, of French manufacture, which is en route to this city and in which he will attempt a flight to Europe before long. The plane has a cruising range of 5,000 miles and develops 400 h.p. He plans to fly across Russia and will follow the Trans-Siberian Railway. Upon his return to Europe he will organize a group of French engineers who will have charge of the manufacture of planes at the Shanghai factory.

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